



Experience Matters
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Experience Matters AmeriCorps Program 20) 13/14

Phoenix, Arizona

Federal Legislative District(s)

PROGRAM FAST FACTS

Congressional District(s): 7
State Legislative District(s): 24
Service Area by County/City: Maricopa County
Project Federal Share: \$110,903
Project Local Match: \$76,019
Community Volunteers Recruited: 27
Volunteer Hours Served: 9691
Value of Volunteer Hours: \$194,595
*2011 Independent Sector Rate for the Value of a Volunteer Hour in Arizona is \$20.08

Community Need

The Experience Matters AmeriCorps Program is designed to work with Public and Charter Schools to help the students and the schools to succeed by engaging retired skilled adults. Teachers often are short on time and resources to assist struggling students and schools often lack the time and resources to build a strong volunteer program. The program addresses these issues through direct service by members tutoring students and through capacity building, where members help build the volunteer base at the school and help improve the volunteer experience.

National Priority Area and Program Performance Goals

Education & Healthy Future

- **Improve attendance and test score of 100 students**
- **Recruit and manage 200 volunteers to assist at partnering schools**
- **Partnering schools will implement 3 effective volunteer management practices developed by the member**
- **Members have a meaningful Encore experience**

Program Activities

In partnership with HandsOn Greater Phoenix's Your Experience Counts program, members assist teachers in the class room by tutoring students in grade 3 – 6 in reading, writing, and math.

Members who work in the roll of volunteer coordinators at our partner schools are engaging the neighboring business community, working with parent-teacher organizations, working on school garden projects, recruit tutors and mentors, and develop and implement strategies and processes to strengthen the volunteer program at the school they serve.

Program Impact

Maya High School's project aims to better prepare students grade 9-12 for the workplace. Thanks to the AmeriCorps member serving at Maya, local business are supporting the school and students, through employment opportunities for students and by educating students in the Job application process. With his help, the school has formed a business advisory committee which will meet every other month to develop and plan mock interviews, employment seminars, community service projects and more.

Elizabeth Wadbrook is working with 3rd grade students of a diverse background in the Dysart School District. Her presents has supported the teaching and administrative staff and the number of students with improved scores, improved attendance, and buildable skill learning foundations has increased. Last not least, Elizabeth finds the experience rewarding. It allows her to continue to utilize the skills she gained from a life in the teaching profession and gives her a deeper connection to the Dysart community.

Experience Matters AmeriCorps Program

Mission

The Experience Matters' mission is to create a culture in our community which fosters meaningful work and service opportunities of people age 50+

Vision

Our primary goal is to connect every passionate, experienced adult to an organization in need of people's time, talent and experience. We operate as a consortium of business professionals, community leaders and organizations who work strategically to enhance the capacity of the public and nonprofit sectors to tap into the talent of committed adults in our community.

History

The Experience Matters Consortium is part of a national movement that sprang up as a result of Harvard School of Public Health—MetLife Foundation Initiative on Retirement & Civic Engagement's 2004 report *Reinventing Aging: Baby Boomers and Civic Engagement*. In response to the report, the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and the Arizona Community Foundation began investing in initiatives to investigate issues presented in the report from a local perspective. And, that's when Experience Matters was born, not yet as an organization, but as a consortium of community stakeholders. The consortium convened to gather information, best practices, develop a vision and implementation strategies. As a result, the Experience Matters Consortium was formed as a stand-alone organization in early 2009. Experience Matters views the national service platform as a solution to these local inter-generational community needs. Just as AmeriCorps has proven successful in helping younger people explore, prepare for and pursue careers in nonprofit fields, "Encore Service" offers a powerful pathway for Boomer adults, which will help them successfully shift to social service endeavors and positively impact the community.

Partnerships

The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust has been and continues to be a major supporter and strategic partner in carrying out the mission of Experience Matters. Encore.org and their Encore Fellows Network is another strategic partner. Experience Matters is part of this national network of organizations that deliver the Encore Fellow Program to their community. In addition, BHHS Legacy Foundation, Nina Mason Pulliam Trust, and Bruce T. Halle Foundation have all made significant investments in Experience Matters to support the development and implementation of our programs and services we offer nonprofit organizations to effectively engage skilled community talent age 50+.

OTHER

Broadly speaking, our AmeriCorps Boomers Serving AZ Schools program is an intergenerational approach to improve education and strengthen communities while supporting the changing expectations and needs of Boomers in Maricopa County.

